NOTES

IT is with very great pleasure we state that an English friend has just received a letter from Baron Liebig, in his own handwriting, dated Munich, the 1st inst. Although still very weak, he is now able to get into his garden for some little time daily. If he continues to progress as he is now doing he proposes going to Switzerland, to the Engadine, in three weeks, where it is hoped he may soon become quite strong.

DEATH has been busy lately among the more eminent members of the medical profession. We have this week to record the decease of Sir James Clark, Bart., M.D., F.R.S., chief physician to Her Majesty, which took place on the 29th ult., in the 82nd year of his age. Sir James had held the appointment of physician to several members of the Royal Family, was the author of several works on climate and on consumption, and was a member of the Senate of the University of London. He attended the poet, John Keats, during his last illness at Rome in 1821.

THE Radcliffe Observer at Oxford, the Rev. R. Main, has just issued a second Radcliffe catalogue, containing 2,386 stars deduced from observations extending from 1854 to 1861. The well-known care taken by the observer in the reduction of observations, and the admirable instruments in the observatory under his charge, render this volume a very valuable addition to our astronomical libraries.

WE have received from Mr. Van Voorst a most beautiful book, which every scientific man in this and other lands will be glad to possess. Its contents are sixteen portraits of eminent scientific men, photographed by Dr. Wallich, the well-known naturalist, and with a skill quite unsurpassed, so far as we know, in any previous attempts. Dr. Wallich states that his aim has been to supply likenesses that shall be both characteristic, free from some errors in taste but too frequently manifest in photographic portraiture, and trustworthy as records of individual feature and expression; and in all these points the likenesses are admirable. We could hope that the success of this volume would be such as to induce Dr. Wallich to enlarge his scientific series. We may add that the present portraits are those of General Sir E. Sabine, Sir R. I. Murchison, Profs. Owen, Bentham, Huxley, Tyndall, Stokes, Ramsay, and Williamson, Dr. Hooker, Sir C. Lyell, Sir W. Logan, Viscount Walden, the Rev. G. B. Reade, and Messrs. Lassell and Prestwich.

AT the meeting of the French Academy of Sciences on the 27th ult. the section of Anatomy and Zoology presented the following list of candidates for the place of correspondent vacant by the death of Prof. Carus. In the first rank, Prof. Brandt of St. Petersburg; in the second rank and in alphabetical order MM. Bischoff (Munich), Darwin, Huxley, Hyrtl (Vienna), Leuckart (Leipzig), Lovén (Stockholm), Steenstrup (Copenhagen), and Vogt (Geneva). The election was to take place on Monday last.

A COMMITTEE of the House of Commons having reported in favour of the establishment of the national natural history museums on the Thames Embankment, Mr. Beresford Hope inquired, on Monday evening last, whether it was the intention of the Government to carry out this recommendation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer replied that such an appropriation would deprive the ratepayers of a large portion of the land which was to be laid out as public gardens, and therefore Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to ask Parliament to carry out the recommendations of the committee. We are very glad to hear that the Government does intend to insist on so large a portion of the Embankment being rescued from the builders. But have the interests of the ratepayers been so jealously guarded when other claims than those of science were placed in competition with them?

AT the D.Sc. examination of the University of London, just held, candidates passed in the following branches:—Branch I.—Mathematics, John Hopkinson, Trinity College, Cambridge, and Owens. Branch IV.—Inorganic and Organic Chemistry or Mineralogy: James Bottomley, B.A., Owens College; David Watson, Royal School of Mines; John Watts, private study. Branch V.—Organic and Inorganic Chemistry: James Campbell Brown, Royal College of Chemistry and private study; Charles Romley Alder Wright, Owens College. Branch VIII.—Physical Optics; Heat; Acoustics: John Hopkinson, Trinity College, Cambridge, and Owens. The D.Sc. examination is intended by the University to be the highest possible test of proficiency in some one particular branch of science, and can be taken in any one of sixteen different branches. It is encouraging to find that not only have a larger number passed the examination than in any previous year, but that it has been taken in branches in which there has hitherto been no candidate; and moreover, that one gentleman has passed in two distinct branches. Owens College may well be proud of the number of successful candidates it has sent up.

AT a meeting of the Council of the Royal School of Mines, held on Saturday, July 2nd, the following awards were made:—Two Royal Scholarships of 15*l.* each for first year's students, to W. H. Greenwood and F. C. Milford; H.R.H. the Duke of Cornwall's Scholarship to P. C. Gillchrist; the Royal Scholarship of 25*l.* to R. R. Atkinson; the De la Beche medal and prize of books to W. Gowland; and the Director's medal and prize of books to P. C. Gillchrist. The Edward Forbes medal and prize of books were not competed for this year. The title of Associate of the Royal School of Mines was conferred upon the undermentioned gentlemen:—In the Division of Mining—Messrs. William Gowland, Archibald Liversidge, and H. J. Renwicke. In the Division of Metallurgy—William Gowland, Dillon, Liversidge, A. W. Bickerton, F. W. Bayley, and T. Jones. In the Division of Geology—W. Johnson Sollas.

THE examination for women above eighteen years of age, conducted by the University of Cambridge, has been proceeding during the present week, at three centres, London, Manchester, and Rugby. The number of entries last year was thirty-six, this year they have increased to eighty-four, and we are glad to observe that there are candidates in several branches of natural science which were not touched last year, among them Zoology, Botany, and some of the higher branches of Mathematics.

THE *Athenæum* states that the University of Vienna has decided to admit women to all the advantages of its medical school, and that two French students have already availed themselves of the privilege.

A TELEGRAM from Athens speaks of an earthquake which has taken place in the island of Santorin. The town is a mass of ruins, and several small islets have been submerged.

DR. PETERMANN announces in the *Cologne Gazette* that the *Warag*, one of the best steamers of the Russian fleet, left Helsingfors on the 7th of June, under the command of Captain Krämer, on a scientific expedition to Nova Zembla and Spitzbergen. The *Warag* is to proceed *viâ* Bergen, Hammerfest, and Vardö. It will be accompanied by two or three steamers from Archangel, with the Grand-duke Alexis and several eminent scientific men on board. This expedition is to be the precursor to a more important one which is being prepared by the Russian Geographical Society, and will proceed next year to the North Pole.

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The *Moniteur Scientifique* for June 15th, edited by Dr. Quesneville, contains three articles taken from our columns, the source of two only of which are acknowledged—"The Science of Explosives applied to the Art of War," and "Scientific Experimental Research," by Mr. George Gore (or, as the French rendering has it, Mr. George Core). The third, Dr. Lankester's article on "The Extract of Meat," appears as an original paper.

The annual meeting of the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland will be held at Leicester at the end of the present month. The meeting is under the patronage of Her Majesty and the Prince of Wales, and Lord Talbot de Malahide, F.S.A., is the president of the year. Leicester itself possesses many features of archæological interest. These include its mediæval churches, the Norman hall of its ancient castle, the "newarke" of the castle, numerous Roman pavements, one being *in situ*, and the noted mass of Roman masonry called the "Jewry Wall," the ancient hall of Corpus Christi Guild, the Chapel of Trinity Hospital, and the now forsaken hospital of William de Wyggelston. With these may be mentioned the site of Leicester Abbey, surrounded by its original walls, where Cardinal Wolsey breathed his last. Among the features of interest which will be included in the proceedings of the week will be the inspection of Kirby, Muxloe Castle, Ashby-de-la-Zouch Castle, the ruins in Bradgate Park, so intimately connected with Lady Jane Grey, the remains of Ulverscroft Priory, the curious stained glass of Woodhouse Chapel, the house known as Latimer's at Thurcaston, the noble church at Melton Mowbray, the fine Norman hall at Oakham, the interesting hall and church at Exton, and the remarkable encampment at Barrow-on-the-Hill. A temporary museum will be established as usual during the week, and will include a collection of portraits of worthies connected with the counties of Leicester and Rutland.

The general monthly meeting of the Royal Institution of Great Britain was held on Monday, July 4, Sir R. I. Murchison, K.C.B., F.R.S., in the chair. The secretary announced the receipt of 2,000*l.*, a legacy from the late Mr. Alfred Davis, M.R.I., for the promotion of experimental researches.

Baboo Radanauth Sickdar, for many years chief computer to the Trigonometrical Survey of India, at one time in charge of the Calcutta Observatory, and a mathematician of some attainments, died in May last at Calcutta.

The Governor of Madras has presented to the Horticultural Gardens there four young date palms, which he has procured from Egypt.

There has been for some time in India a discussion on the subject of pearl oyster banks on the Tinnevelly coast. Those who have maintained the existence of the oysters are now fully confirmed by the discovery of young oysters in abundance. One bank is four miles in length and about two in width, and in another two years will yield a good harvest of pearls.

A mineral spring has been discovered in the Gheiveh hills, near Broussa, in Asia Minor.

The foundation-stone of a new Observatory was laid at Port Louis, Mauritius, on the 30th of May, by H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, to be called the Royal Alfred Observatory. In addition to astronomical observations, it is intended to make the Observatory a centre for researches for the advancement of meteorology and terrestrial magnetism. Full particulars of the ceremony will be found in another column. In Sir Henry Barkly, who is about to leave Mauritius for the Cape, the colony will lose a Governor who has always had at heart the promotion of everything connected with physical and natural science.

The temperature of the Cranial Cavity has lately been investigated by Mendel, of Pankow near Berlin. He states that Fick had already found the normal temperature of the cranial cavity to be lower than that of the body generally. Jacobson and Bernhardt had similarly noticed the inferior temperature of the blood arriving at the heart by the superior vena cava, and the depression produced by it in the right cavities. M. Mendel corroborates these results, and finds constantly that in health there is a difference of from seven-tenths to one degree centigrade between the temperature of the cranial cavity and the rectum in the rabbit, and that in the dog the difference is almost as well marked. Duméril and Demarquay have shown that the temperature of the body is lowered by the action of chloroform. Bouisson arrived at the same results, as have also Sulzynski and Scheinnesson; the latter experimenting upon man. The difference observed by Mendel between the cranial and rectal temperature is much more pronounced when the animal is under the influence of chloroform than when in health. Chloroform lowers the temperature generally, but especially that of the cranial cavity. The effects produced by chloral on the general temperature have been already studied by Demarquay. This author has found that the temperature of the body falls several tenths of a degree. Mendel arrives at the same results in regard to the temperature of the cranial cavity, except that it falls to a still greater degree than the general temperature. Dequix, Dupuy, Leuret, and Gscheidlen have found that after a medicinal dose of morphia the temperature of the body rises, though when given in a poisonous dose it falls. Mendel again arrives at a similar conclusion, viz., that the depression of temperature is more rapid and more marked in the cranial cavity than in the rest of the body. In poisoning by alcohol the temperature of the cranial cavity rises to such a point that it surpasses the temperature of the rectum.

The hygrometrical balance compensating for the severe drought under which Western Europe has been suffering for the past three months, appears to have been maintained by an unusually heavy rainfall, reported at the Paris Observatory as having been experienced in Egypt, Lybia, Asia Minor, and Russia. The Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* states that two theories to account for the drought have been broached among French *savants*. One of these attributes to the cutting of the Suez Canal a displacement of the atmospheric currents which regulate the weather of Europe and North Africa! The other theory is grounded on the statement that the spring rains in France are caused by atmospheric commotions resulting from the breaking up of the ice fields to the east of Newfoundland, and that for this reason a long and severe winter in the Arctic regions is followed by a dry spring and severe and destructive summer storms in Central and Western Europe. The author of this theory suggests that science should be employed in breaking up the ice-fields at the end of a severe winter by nitro-glycerine and picrate of potassium. This scheme is advocated in the pages of *Cosmos*, by a civil engineer of the name of V. Prou, who proposes forming an "Insurance Company against Drought," for the purpose of assisting nature in the disintegr ation of the Polar ice, and thus forming a more equable temperature.

We are glad to see that the *savants* of Haarlem continue to bring out the "Archives du Musée Teyler." The new fasciculus just received in London contains the following papers:—"Sur les insectes fossiles du calcaire lithographique de la Bavière," by H. Weyenbergh, jun.; "Description d'un crinoïde et d'un poisson du système heersien," by Dr. T. C. Winkler, and a further instalment "Sur la Dispersion," by Van der Willigen. The plates representing the fossil insects and the crinoïd are beautifully executed, and for purposes of study are almost as good as the originals. By way of explanation we mention that the "Système Heersien" takes its name from a district in the province of Limburg, in which two villages, Upper and Lower Heers, are situate.

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